MRAC HAMATEUR CHATTER

VOL. 2, NO. 5 JULY, 1951

MAC ARTHUR PARADE

Milwaukee mobile radio amateurs added another laurel to their rapidly growing list of achievements during the mid-April visit of Gen. Douglas MacArthur to his home town.

After it was determined that the hams could be of assistance in transmitting information on the progress of the MacArthur motorcade as it entered Wisconsin from the south on Highway 42, two mobile units were officially assigned to the parade itself. Along with relay stations set up en-route and the base station used to transmit bulletins to the agencies requesting pertinent information, the operation functioned with little interference and a minimum of difficulty. Under the direction of Charley Kaetel, W9SNK, the mobile group arranged to furnish information to the "MacArthur Network", a group of local stations (WEMP, WFOX, WISN, WMAW, WMIL), The Journal Radio Stations, WOKY, and the Journal and Sentinel newsrooms in addition to the Milwaukee Police department.

Control was established at W9AYX, just off highway 41, on 3873kc and 3950kc, with W9IZO, W9GPI and W9WK operating the mobiles, and W9VQD and W9NEM trouble shooting along the route in other mobile cars. The staff at W9AYX included W9IZH and W9VLK, in addition to W9SNK. All bulletins were relayed to the Shorewood emergency station, W9IH, and then telephoned downtown. The staff at W9IH included W9EBJ, W9AMB, W9DR and W9HWO. After the motorcade reached Milwaukee and started its whirlwind tour through the city during the afternoon the frequency shifted to ten meters and 29640kc with W9EKU, W9MNI, W9MOT, W9UMX and W9RH participating as mobiles.

Jack Doyle, W9GPI, best describes the day's crowded activity in a story he has put down for posterity called, "The Daylight Ride of the Mobileers". Space in this issue does not permit a detailed account of the harrowing experiences Jack, Tommy Gettelman, Tommy Thomas and all the other faithfuls underwent. But his tale of the pushing, the shoving, and most of all the.....but.....let him tell it....."As we moved into position behind the governor's Cadillac, the big number ONE on his license became our target. Our speedometer suddenly was up to 55--60--70--Whee 75 miles per hour -- and our driver froze solidly into the alert position of a person driving down a steep mountain grade his right foot pushing on the accelerator and his left one poised above the brake pedal.

"Within what seemed like seconds we plunged into the outskirts of Kenosha and people were everywhere -- including the roadway. Then.... Racine, the Milwaukee County line, the city and in less time than it takes to tell about it, we arrived at the Plankinton Hotel after the wildest drive of your reporter's career.

"D3X and GIL attempted to get some snapshots and movies. We nearly lost two good hams in the mission. Gettelman needed a vacation to restore his shattered nerves, and Billy Sanger, our driver, wears an elastic bandage on his wrist after qualifying for the "500" race.

"In the records the MacArthur motorcade can well go down in M.R.A.C. history as the 'Great Rat Race' and a revelation on amateur operations mobilewise -- at speeds and under conditions that NEVER again will be equalled. Nobody could get that nuts!"

FROM DOLLARS TO DOUGHNUTS

This piece could be captioned in many ways -- "Out of little acorns, big oaks grow," would be an apt description. Or perhaps, "There's no substitute for work." Wise men through the ages have said countless things and historians have preserved the best for posterity. But the guy who coined the phrase, "From Dollars to Doughnuts," hit it right on the button when he gave us those few words to tell the story of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club mobile radio truck, W9HRM.

The Dollars part of the story goes back to Jack Doyle, W9GPI, when he started the ball rolling and then put his shoulders behind the A.R.R.L. national convention staged here a few years ago. The club realized a tidy sum from the three day affair. Being a non-profit organization it was necessary that the M.R.A.C. take steps to put the money earned to the best possible use as soon as possible. Not being a frivolous group, after the first big affair at the Milwaukee Athletic Club, leading members and the board of directors hit upon the idea of a mobile radio truck owned, fitted out and operated by the club and its members.

The ball was set in motion again. Arrangements were made to purchase a new International ton-and-a-half truck with a Metro van type body. Radio gear was procured at the best possible prices with the help of Radio Parts Co., Amphenol, Motorola and others. The Forrer Equipment Co. donated the operating chairs, for example.

A first class job of installation was the next step as the $5,000 "ball-of-wax" took form. H. Charles Kaetel, W9SNK, a WISN engineer, and Gene Wille, W9EKU, a sound engineer, seized the opportunity to be of service and took charge of putting the equipment in operating shape. They were ably assisted by Clarence Burke, W9KEU, who handled the mechanical installation, and W9IDW, W9GLA, and W9LCD. The Gettelman Brewery electricians put in the AC wiring.

In a little more than a year we have come from the Dollars to the Doughnuts.

A newcomer to the club lists, Bob Posanski, no call yet but a ham through and through, handled the doughnuts. It came about at the A.R.R.L. Field Day, just concluded. Travis Baird, W9VQD, and his crew of operators wheeled the completed W9HRM onto the field day location -- the Robert J. Kieckhefer estate in Brookfield -- and friend Posanski wheeled in the doughnuts. Some thirty members participated in the exercises, and they all came away raving about the terrific job of gratis baked refreshments that Baker Posanski kept rolling from his Beloit Road emporium to the Brookfield headquarters.

Baird and his outfit using the truck rigs as a nucleus rang up 411 contacts in the 24 hour period. Most of the QSO's were made on 40 meters, with ten meters showing up badly due to the condition of the band. Truck equipment used were the Collins and Harvey-Wells transmitters and the HRO and NC 57 receivers with RME 152A preselector. All power was supplied from the trailer two-and-a-half KW generator.

Following is a list of members who participated: W9SNK, ANA, CUW, DGB, DR, EKU, FDX, GIL, GLA, MOT, GPI, GZR, HDW, IDW, IRZ, IZO, IZQ, KEG, LFK, NMA, LFP, LIC, LSK, SQL, UH, VLK, LIO, Haworth, Tom Herzog and Piechowski.

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HAMATEUR CHATTER

Published periodically by the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. in the interest of the membership and amateur radio.

Fred Zolin, W9ONY, President
Travis Baird, W9VQD, 1st V. Pres.
Kenneth Eggert, W9MOT, 2nd V. Pres.
Arthur Brown, W9EZP, Secretary
Lynn P. Lewis, W9UH, Treasurer

STAFF

Sidney R. Rose, W9VKC, Editor
James Fischer, W9LPF, Publisher

Address all correspondence relative to the Bulletin to Sid. Rose, Editor, 5520 W. Wells St.

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NEW CLUB OFFICERS

The following are the newly elected Club Officers and Board of Directors:

President, Fred H. Zolin, W9ONY
First Vice President, Travis Baird, W9VQD
Second Vice President, Kenneth Eggert, W9MOT
Secretary, Arthur Brown, W9EZP
Treasurer, Lynn P. Lewis, W9UH

Ralph O. Koenig, W9RUF, Chairman
Thomas A. Gettelman, W9IZO, (2 years)
Louis Wollaeger, W9ANA, (2 years)
Jack Doyle, W9GPI, (2 years)
Emil Felber, W9RH, (1 year)
Douglas Pavek, W9FDX, (1 year)
Charles Kaetel, W9SNK, (1 year)

LETTERS TO THE CLUB

Two letters from widely separated points were received by the club recently, but both bear out the importance of the many activities club members participate in. Dr. L. S. H. Baird of Tucson, Ariz., one of the original founders of the M.R.A.C. writes to thank us for bringing him close (with Hamateur Chatter) to the doings and endeavors of the old gang. He says that "twenty-five years later I find myself telling friends, ham or otherwise, about 'The Club'". And from George A. DeGrace, promotion director of WISN, comes another thank-you for the "rightful share in the glory" the club has earned for its performance in assisting the "MacArthur Network", described elsewhere in this issue. Millions of listeners heard the statewide broadcasts, according to DeGrace.

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The circuit diagram of the series noise limiter circuit which Mr. F. A. Franke, Chief Sales Engineer of the Hallicrafter Co., demonstrated at one of our recent meetings will appear in the September issue of the Hamateur Chatter.

REPORT FROM TUCSON

"Thanks for the April issue of 'Chatter'", writes ex-W9HO, Dr. L. S. H. Baird, one of the founders of the M.R.A.C. "You have no more appreciative reader. I recall Handy's first visit in 1928. I'd like to see any back issues available, especially with write-ups of old-timers as this number did of W9ANA."

"Twenty-five years later I find myself telling friends, ham or otherwise, about 'the club'."

Fred Catel, W9DTK, another club old-timer, visited Baird during the former's west coast junket last year.

Another former Milwaukeean, W9LKM, now with a government bureau in Washington, has asked that "Chatter" be forwarded to him. Nothing like keeping up with the doings of the old gang.

MEETINGS WELL ATTENDED

The M.R.A.C. wound up its 1950-51 term with a bang-up meeting at the Miller Brewery new Stein Room. More than 100 club members took advantage of the Brewery's invitation and all were rewarded with a FB meal and scads of suds. It was comaradery and festive feeling at its best, and the event promises to become an annual affair. Tom Gettelman showed a short movie depicting the club's efforts in the MacArthur parade and the brewery representatives showed several reels of sports movies. A short business meeting was highlighted by the installation of officers. The dinner was preceded by a conducted tour through the new brewery buildings.

Another capacity attendance was on tap for the May 24 election of officers meeting. After the usual formalities the gang adjourned to a west side tap and were entertained and fed by Don Merton, W2UOL. Don, another old time M.R.A.C. member, who has achieved success in the radio merchandising field with his Eldico of New York, told the fellows that he hoped to join the gang at least once a year in a similar get-together.

The Ed Handy meeting in mid-April found the ARRL Communications Manager in his usual fine fettle. He exhibited a Handy Walkie Talkie which he carried in his brief case, and the members in attendance gave it close inspection. About forty of the gang took advantage of Tom Gettelman's invitation and spent another couple of hours out at Gettelman's Rathskeller after Handy's talk.

GOVERNOR SIGNS LICENSE BILL

At long last, the amateur radio sponsored automobile license act has come down the stretch after assembly and senate approval to be signed into law by Governor Walter Kohler.

No definite date for issuance of the call-letter tags for the cars of amateurs has been set, but it is expected that the procedure for application will be decided upon within the next 30 days. Meanwhile, amateurs who will later desire to file for the special plates should renew their present tags and they will be given credit for time remaining at the date of change over. The M.R.A.C. will furnish local hams with exact filing instructions as soon as received from the Motor Vehicle Dept.

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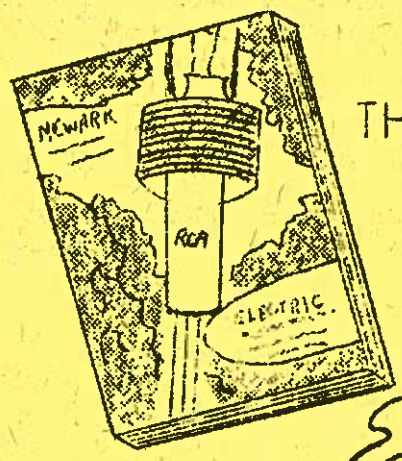

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W9GLA COPS TEN METER CONTEST

A low powered, highly efficient, and expertly operated fixed station led a field of 42 stations in the second ten meter contest of the season sponsored by the M.R.A.C. last month. Although a mobile topped the standings in the previous contest, the nearest mobile this round was nine contacts off the pace.

Charley Wittkop, W9GLA, rang the bell with 29 confirmed QSO's to win the competition; he had 24 contacts for fourth place in the mid-winter exercise. W9GLA used a mere 60 watts, and operated AM off of a three element beam. Forty percent of the stations used beams in the contest and eighty-eight percent were on AM.

W9TPT, Frank Maiorana, second in the earlier get-to-gether, drew the runnerup spot again, making 27 contacts. Tommy Gettelman, W9IZO, Elm Grove, was close behind with 26 logged, giving the out-county contestants two of the first three spots.

The first X-YL to gain position in local contests in some time, Leonne Zavodnik, W9MGT, recently licensed and recently married to Marty, W9BPR, was fourth from West Allis with 25 QSO's. Leonne will be remembered as the raven-tressed YL who has been coming to club meetings since she was fifteen. She is now a public school teacher. Paul Hoecher, W9NQH, maitre d'hote at the Miller Brewery Stein Room, was fifth with 24 marked up.

The mobileers has 13 stations active in the contest. Doug Pavek, W9FDX, winner of the first affair, and Old Campaigner, W9GIL, John Scarvaci, were tied in this catagory with 20 QSO's. They were closely followed by W9EKU, Gene Willie, with 19 logged, and W9IDW, Gerald Bergemann, 17 contacts. Both of the winning mobile stations had 20 watts.

Only one operator, W9VKC, turned up with a contest connected disability. Having been on the band for eight months, the operator of this station has had time to install just one antenna. In order to receive he has to stand up and clip the receiving wire to the outside transmitting antenna, and visa-versa for transmitting. After eleven contacts and a few assorted CQ's and miscellaneous transmissions he had to give up 28 minutes before the contest ended, suffering from an acute charley-horse in both legs. W9VKC was on the shelf for two days, and rumor has it that the second and just-as-necessary antenna should be up by the next contest.

LOST AND FOUND DEPT.

Gene Wille, W9EKU, is looking for the inker which is part of the club's code practice machine. Somewhere, somebody in town appropriated the missing link, and the new administration is making every attempt to complete a final inventory. Contact Gene or your nearest FBI office if you know where it can be located.

ANNUAL PICNIC AT BROWN DEER PARK

The new board of directors has announced the first event of its tenure with the scheduling of the annual M.R.A.C. picnic, July 8, at Brown Deer Park. The gala affair, always well attended, will be staged in the park's Area No. 5. Permission has been granted by county park authorities to erect antennas, and full use will be made of club mobile truck W9HRM/M. Members are asked to bring their own lunch. Nominal fee will be charged for refreshments. This picnic is for members and their family only.

New Club Members

Emmeth J. Schoen 3501 South 32nd Street (No call) (EV 3-5956)

Edward A. Seruga 815 South 5th Street W9LIU (OR 2-6661)

Henry (Art.) Brown, Jr. 1032 E. Knapp Street, Apt. 510 W9EZP (BR 2-6799)

Tom F. Lowe 1333 N. Prospect Ave.

Charles D. Mouzis 819 N. 22nd Street W9UEO (DI 2-6358)

Howard P. Estes 7120 N. Barnett Lane W8ELR (FL 4-9386)

Frank Sepic 4228 W. Burleigh St. W9GKS (CU 3-2150)

John D. Guerard 561 N. 14th St., Apt. 36 W9NEM (DI 4-5779)

John R. Moriarity 5547 N. Shoreland W9LFP (ED 2-6316)

John K. Jacobson 2626 N. 48th Street (no call) (CU 3-0456)

Arthur C. Strege 3023 N. 21st Street (no call) (CU 3-3305)

Carl E. McDonald % 1020 N. Broadway (no call)

Stanley T. Grabski 1946 South 20th St. (no call)

Leonore Zavodnik 616 South 61st St. W9MGT (GR 6-2957)

Martin Zovodnik 616 South 61st St. W9BPR (GR 6-2957)

Barney Nawn 562 North 14th Street W9LBV (WE 3-0421)

Robert A. Podewils 2637-A W. Lisbon Ave. (no call)

Peter H. Smith 2210 LeFeber Ave. (no call) (SP 4-1526)

Woodley C. Blackwell, Jr. 1912 North 16th Street (no call)

Robert J. Posanski 5901 W. Beloit Rd. (no call) (EV 3-5650)

Harold R. Bartell 3624-A North 39th Street (no call) (HI 5-2835)

CONTEST

The club tried to run a contest for the design of the mobile radio truck, which however was finally resolved by having an outside independent artist do the final job. In fairness to those who participated, an honorable mention is extended the following:

Gildea Hutchinson, W9FTY
G. J. Pfister, Jr., W9IZQ
Eric Mildebrath, W9STE
Armando Huaman, OA4BL
Will Herzog, W9LSK
Mrs. A. C. Krones, W9UIT
H. Charles Kaetel, W9SNK
Howard Timm
Eugene A. Wille, W9EKU
Edward Chandek
John Ottmann, W9AKB
Emil R. Felber, Jr., W9RH
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